

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 575
By Head

A RESOLUTION to honor Austin Peay State University women's basketball coach, Susie Gardner, on being named the Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year.

WHEREAS, throughout the storied history of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, few coaches have epitomized winning more than Austin Peay State University women's basketball coach Susie Gardner; and

WHEREAS, a native of Mt. Juliet, Susie Gardner was a basketball standout at Mt. Juliet High School as a member of two squads that competed in state semifinal games; and

WHEREAS, while earning her bachelor's degree at the University of Georgia, Coach Gardner was a four-year letterwinner and sharpshooter for the Bulldogs; she twice played in the Final Four, once competed in the championship game, and thrice led her team to the Southeast Conference title; and

WHEREAS, upon her graduation, Susie Gardner remained at the University of Georgia to pursue her Master of Education degree and served as a Graduate Assistant under her beloved coach, Andy Landers; and

WHEREAS, Coach Gardner was only 23 when she secured her first Head Coach position; coaching at Anderson College in South Carolina, she established a 60-46 record and led her team to a region championship; and

WHEREAS, re-entering the realm of Division I athletics, Susie Gardner next served as an Assistant Coach at San Diego State, and her tenure with the Aztecs featured three Western Athletic Conference championships, a trifecta of NCAA Tournament appearances, and an annually nationally ranked defense; and

WHEREAS, Susie Gardner's illustrious career with the Austin Peay women's basketball program began seven years ago; and

WHEREAS, she has coached the Austin Peay team to four OVC championships and four NCAA tournament appearances during her remarkable career and established a 63-28 record over the last three seasons; and

WHEREAS, Coach Gardner's dominance in basketball is best illustrated by the Lady Governor's 2002-2003 season, when she coached the team to championships in Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) regular season play and in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament; and

WHEREAS, to her players, Susie Gardner is a mentor and friend who inspires them to believe in themselves and the Lady Governor's system every time they take to the court; she is a strong recruiter and motivator who has "got a keen eye for people whose best basketball is ahead of them," according to Austin Peay Athletic Director David Loos; and

WHEREAS, Coach Gardner's dedication to excellence, detail, and sportsmanship surely bodes well for her future endeavors, particularly as she moves on to coach the women's basketball team at the University of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, this assembled group of state legislators is especially proud to pause in its deliberations to recognize this esteemed Tennessean for her extraordinary accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Susie Gardner, Austin Peay State University women's basketball coach, on being named the Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year, extending to her our heartfelt wishes for her every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.